Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [008] to read as follows:

[008] The invention is an audio-video communication and answering system that synergistically improves communication between an exterior and an interior of a business or residence and a remote location, communication between two or more rooms and a remote location, leaving messages at a centralized location from a local or remote location, and as a novel monitoring system for viewing, listening, and recording from a remote location. As will become obvious from the description, the Digital Video Messaging System (DVMS) ~~system~~ is inherently extensible in both form and function, and is designed so that it can be expanded to include multiple peripheral devices, both in direct communication with a computerized controller running a graphic user interface DVMS database application, and indirectly through the Internet and the public-switching telephone network (PSTN). Peripheral devices that are in wireless communication ~~in direct contact~~ with the computerized controller via a wireless networking means ~~radio frequency (RF) link~~ are designated as ~~a~~ DVMS modules ~~device~~, as they communicate digitally with each other and with the ~~over a via short-range RF waves that have a direct view, and these peripheral devices are used to receive and convey messages to the other similar peripheral devices, as well as the~~ computerized controller. A preferred digital wireless link, employs the 802.11b standard, which operates at 2.4 GHz (UHF) and has a bandwidth of 11 mbits. The 802.11b standard is the current standard for LAN networks, laptops, desktops, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and pocket personal (PC) computer devices. The 802.11b standard has the advantage that it is widely accepted and most obstructions do not impede communication. Even higher wider bandwidth standards, such as 802.11g, are anticipated in the future. Remote peripheral devices generally are in communication via established institutional channels, such as the Internet, satellite systems, PSTN, cell systems, wireless LANs, cable systems, and to a lesser extent, long-wave length systems. Remote peripheral devices are selected from the group consisting of cell phones, telephones, video-cell phones, computers,

pocket PCs, personal digital assistants, video-personal digital assistants, satellite telephones, transceivers, pagers, and other analog or digital communication devices.

Please amend paragraphs [0010] - [0013] to read as follows:

[0010] The basic system is comprised of: a DVMS outside module, (i.e. a wireless PC with a video camera), having a means for proximity ~~sensor~~ sensing, a video camera, a microphone, a speaker, a digital ~~an RF~~ transmitter, a digital ~~an RF~~ receiver, and a keypad; a DVMS inside module, (i.e. wireless pocket PCs), having a display screen, a microphone, a speaker, a digital transmitter, a digital receiver, and a keypad; a computerized controller (i.e. a wireless desktop or laptop) with a graphic user interface DVMS database application, wherein the computerized controller has components for playing and recording video and audio media ~~is in communication with a public switching telephone network~~; and a means for wireless networking ~~an RF switching device~~ (i.e. a wireless modem, which may be a component of the computerized controller), wherein the ~~RF switching device~~ means for wireless networking enables communication between the DVMS outside module, the DVMS inside module, and the computerized controller. ~~and, depending on how the system configured, the RF switching device is in communication with other RF devices.~~ The system can furthermore be comprised of an auxillary recording means for recording video and audio media ~~communication that is transmitted to and from the DVMS outside module~~; ~~a playing means for playing video and audio communication stored on the recording means, or other storage devices having rapidly accessible data;~~ a speaker; and a remote peripheral device, such as a cell phone having software that supports the 802.11b standard platform. The DVMS database application coordinates the multiple communication devices, and it is used to define responses to prompts and events.

[0011] The DVMS outside module preferably also has a display screen that is a LCD screen. The keypad can be a LCD touch screen or a keyboard. The DVMS outside module is ~~portable, and has~~ preferably secured with a locking mechanism, such as ~~for fastening it to~~ a holster. The

DVMS outside module can have ~~has~~ an electrical receptacle that enables it to be quickly attached to an electrical source. There can be multiple DVMS outside modules.

[0012] The DVMS inside module preferably has ~~A desired additional peripheral for the audio-video communication and answering system is a DVMS transceiver having~~ a display screen that is a LCD screen~~, a microphone, a speaker, a limited range RF transmitter, a RF receiver, and a keypad~~. As mentioned previously the DVMS inside module, the DVMS outside module, the controller and the wireless networking means all operate using the 802.11b standard. There can be multiple DVMS inside modules.~~—As previously mentioned, a DVMS peripheral device communicates directly with the computerized controller~~.

[0013] The display screen on the DVMS inside module ~~transceiver~~ and the DVMS outside module preferably has a low energy screen like a LCD screen, which is an advantageous feature, in that besides reducing energy consumption, it enables text messaging. Text messaging allows one to communicate with a visitor privately.

Please amend paragraphs [0017] - [0018] to read as follows:

[0017] The computerized controller of the audio-video communication and answering system preferably has a battery backup, and a means for detecting a loss in electrical power. Thereby, when power is lost there will be sufficient time to notify those responsible for the maintenance of the system that there has been a loss of electricity. There are a couple of reasons that make this a particularly important feature. If there is no power, then it is possible that there has been a break in. In addition, if there is no power then other appliances, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, and heaters cannot function, and when they do not work, significant damage often results when their failure goes undetected for a sustained period of time.

[0018] The database application is administered by the administrator, who defines the users, who in the case of the instant invention are called occupants, reflecting their status on the premises. The occupants have various levels of access to the database, depending on the privileges set by the administrator. Other examples of settings determined by the administrator are aliases for a declared occupant, whom may also be known as (i.e., "Daddy" or "Momma"); passwords to access the database; access codes to actuate a lock; a number that corresponds to an occupant's name; and at least one telephone number where an occupant can be reached. Voice, text, and video messages may also be sent via email, and the administrator can set up redundant systems. Further, the administrator can use default prompts for interacting with a visitor, or he can create his own. The administrator chooses a prompt for greeting a visitor; an announcement that is to be given over the speaker when a visitor arrives; a prompt for requesting information from a visitor; a request instructing a visitor as to their choices in leaving a message or contacting a declared user; and the action that is to be initiated by the system based on the input by the visitor. The invention can be configured to play background music or videos at different times of the year, and/or different times of the day to reflect seasonal holidays, birthdays, and events. For instance, on Halloween the administrator may wish to have scary music and howls issuing from the DVMS outside module. The administrator can tailor the security/premise monitoring ~~issues~~ response to designate the telephone numbers that are to be called when there is a loss of power; emergency numbers that are to be automatically called (i.e., the police, the fire department, relatives, private security companies), and a log of self checks to confirm that all the components of the system are operational. Also, depending on the size of the system the administrator may wish to set the level of security that the system is to operate under, particularly with respect to via the dedicated digital communication channel (i.e., the Internet and the Grid). As hardware is added, such as the number of the DVMS outside modules and DVMS inside modules ~~transceivers~~, the wireless network should be updated. Also, the administrator can define the preferred hierarchy of storage of audio and video data, the location and number of backup devices, and whether replications of the database are to be kept.

Please amend paragraph [0021] to read as follows:

[0021] The invention is a method for audio-video greeting and communicating with visitors of a business or residence. The method is comprised of: detecting the presence of a visitor *via* the means for proximity ~~sensor~~ sensing of the DVMS outside module, where the DVMS outside module is mounted at or near an entrance to the business or residence, wherein upon detection the computerized controller is signaled that a visitor is present. The computerized controller records the video image of the visitor, either as a continuous medium or a series of snapshots, and stores the ~~recording means is actuated, and the~~ recording ~~is stored~~ in the database along with a beginning time-stamp. The arrival of a visitor is broadcast over the DVMS inside module and optionally over a speaker within the premises. An occupant can view the visitor at the DVMS inside module or on the computerized controller display monitor, and initiate a conversation at any time. The DVMS outside module issues a greeting to the visitor, and instructs the visitor to select a number from the keypad, which designates whom they wish to visit. The entered number is transmitting from the DVMS outside module to the GUI database application, where the application confirms that the number corresponds to an occupant "y", who is "officially" present. An error message is generated if no individual corresponds to the number entered. While this is going on, the door may be answered at any time, thereby resetting the application to look for another visitor. The application keeps track of the number of times a wrong number is entered and can generate a variety of responses to pranks, including calling the police, issuing warnings and/or a loud noise, or just thanking the visitor and asking him to return another time. If no one corresponds to the number, the visitor is prompted to select and press another number on the keypad, designating whom he or she wish to visit. The method then re-lists the choices. If appropriate, when the number matches an occupant who is on the premises, the speaker broadcasts over the DVMS inside module and optionally over the speaker that the visitor is here to see occupant "y". Occupant "y" can signal the computerized controller to take a message, or occupant "y" may choose to use the DVMS inside module ~~transceiver~~ to speak directly with the visitor, or occupant "y" can answer the door. If appropriate, the DVMS outside module issues a prompt stating that occupant "y" is not available and asks the visitor if they wish to speak to occupant "y" or to leave a message. If appropriate, at any time the application can initiate a call to occupant "y", and the computerized controller can record both sides of the conversation. ~~The occupant can only view the visitor, or initiate a conversation.~~ When a call is made to any remote peripheral device, such as cell phone having software that supports the 802.11b standard, the dial tones are muted so that a visitor cannot record the tones. A visitor never knows where the occupant is, unless the occupant tells the visitor. A visitor never knows how ~~whether~~ the occupant can ~~cannot~~ be contacted, or whether the occupant has just instructed the application to take a message. If the visitor has elected to leave a message then the method prompts the visitor to begin his message and then, optionally, offers him a chance to review and approve his message. The message or call is stored in the database with a beginning timestamp and an ending timestamp, along with the occupant's mailbox number. At the end of the call or message, the application can issue a closing statement and return to background music, if programmed to do so. When the visitor departs, and is out of the range of the means for proximity ~~sensor~~ sensing all recording is stopped and saved in the database record, along with an ending timestamp. The occupant "y" can selectively sort to view the entire recorded visit, or just the message. If the means for proximity ~~sensor~~ sensing indicates that there is another visitor, the method cycles back ~~returning~~ to the greeting step.

Please amend paragraph [0024] to read as follows:

[0024] The method can also ~~optionally~~ include the option that upon ~~entrance~~ entering of a valid access code assigned to a declared occupant, that the application notifies the administrator or his designated representative that the declared occupant has now entered the premises of the business or residence. (The administrator would know who the individual should be. The administrator ~~He~~ can confirm, by remotely viewing the recorded video, that the actual person who entered the access code is ~~was~~ the declared occupant~~, and/or make a follow-up telephone call to the premises~~). If the person entering is not the declared occupant then the administrator can notify the appropriate authorities and if the person entering is the declared occupant then the administrator knows that the declared occupant, such as a child, is safely inside.

Please amend paragraph [0026] to read as follows:

[0026] The principal object of the present invention is to provide an audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system that can be used as a door answering system.

Please amend paragraphs [0028] - [0030] to read as follows:

[0028] A still further object of the present invention is to provide an audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system, which upon sensing that a visitor is proximate, to digitally record the visitor. The recording can be viewed in real time, or at a later time, either locally or remotely.

[0029] A still further object of the present invention is to provide an audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system that is simple to operate by both the occupant and the visitor.

[0030] A still further object of the present invention is to provide an improved door answering system which activates an alarm and or initiates calls to designated institutions and individuals when there is a security breach.

Please amend paragraphs [0037] - [0039] to read as follows:

[0037] Figure 2 is a planar view of the DVMS outside module.

[0038] Figure 3 is a planar view of the DVMS inside module ~~transceiver~~.

[0039] Figure 4 is a block diagram overview of the method wherein the audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system is employed as a door answering and messaging system.

Please amend paragraphs [0042] - [0045] to read as follows:

[0042] The major components of the audio-video communication and answering system 100 are schematically shown in Fig. 1. The exterior of a premises is differentiated from the interior by a demarcation line 214, which represents a wall or other similar structure. The wall 214 has a door 114 and an electronically actuated lock 116. On the exterior is a DVMS outside module 10, which is a wireless pocket PC using the Microsoft Windows® Mobile (802.11b standard) operating system that is in communication with a wireless ~~RF~~ router 42 that is located in~~, which is on~~ the interior. The DVMS outside module 10 has a video camera, a means for proximity sensing, and the conventional components that are now standard with a wireless pocket PC. The means for proximity sensing can be a dedicated proximity sensor or a video software application that analyzes the image for movement. The wireless router 42 is connected to the Internet via DSL, cable, satellite, or through a wireless network. It is anticipated that there could be multiple entrances to the premises and multiple DVMS outside modules. The wireless RF router 42, as shown in Fig.1, is separate from the computerized controller, which is a personal computer 80, however, the RF router could ~~easily~~ be ~~a part~~ an internal component of the personal computer 80. The computerized controller 80, as shown, is connected to the PSTN for making automated calls. The preferred personal computer is a laptop as it is easier to install and has a smaller footprint than a desktop. ~~A DVMS device is a device that communicates via short range RF waves (preferably FM) that have a direct view, in that the~~ The 802.11b standard utilizes the ISM radio band (e.g. industrial, scientific and medical band), where the waves ~~RF waves~~ can pass through doors, walls and floors. The laptop is in electronic communication with remote peripheral devices selected from the group consisting of cell phones, telephones, video-cell phones, computers, pocket PCs, personal digital assistants, video-personal digital assistants, satellite telephones, transceivers, pagers, and digital communication devices. Portable peripheral devices are, for example, cell phones, wireless pocket PCs, and other wireless computers, all of which share the common feature that they communicate over cellular telephone systems or wireless LANs. All of the remote peripheral devices have the capability to send and receive digital audio and digital video communication using the 802.11b standard platform. Hard-wired remote peripheral devices communicate with the personal computer over the Internet, either by DSL or cable. ~~These~~ The remote peripheral devices are used to receive and convey messages to the ~~other~~ DVMS outside modules, ~~devices~~ as well as to communicate with the personal computer 80. Also in the wireless system is ~~communication with the RF router 42 is a~~ at least one DVMS inside module ~~transceiver~~ 60, which is a wireless pocket PC using the Microsoft Windows® Mobile (802.11b standard) operating system. Two are shown, but obviously there could be less or more. A speaker 44 is in communication with the personal computer 80. The speaker 80 is not shown as wireless, but could be. One is shown, but obviously there could be more. A DVMS Database Application 82 is running on the computerized controller 80. The DVMS Database Application of the system ~~, in concert with the operating system,~~ controls ~~the communication to~~ the audio-video ~~equipment,~~ components of the personal computer, and they often include a ~~including the~~ DVD-R/W 84, a ~~the~~ CD-ROM R/W 92, and a ~~the~~ hard drive 86. Depending on the owner's preference, there is no critical need for the DVD 84 nor for the write functionality of the CD-ROM 92, however, as a large hard drive ~~would~~ will suffice ~~be then necessary~~. Typically, these components are housed in the PC, but for clarity they have been shown outside, connected to a switch 88~~, instead of a bus~~. Depending on the switch 88, ~~more~~ additional audio-video storage devices can be used. No inside camera is shown, as it is not critical to the system, but obviously any number of cameras could also be employed on the interior. Also shown is a voice generator 90, and this is used to generate the prompts, which either exists as pre-recorded messages, or are generated by a voice synthesizer. The personal computer, as previously stated, is connected to the Internet. The connection can be by satellite, DSL, or cable modems. An expanded version of the Internet known as the Grid can also be accessed. The personal computer 80 can actuate the lock 116. The personal computer, as previously stated, is also connected to the public switching telephone network (PSTN), which in turn enables communication with any device that connects to it, including GPS navigational systems (i.e., ONSTAR®) 74, Video phones 72, cell phones ~~telephone~~ 76 and PC computers 78, which include the personal digital assistants, PC's, lap tops, etc. This last category, in addition to using telephone lines, can also communicate over the Internet. While not explicitly shown, it is anticipated that in addition to voice generation, the application can utilize voice recognition and image recognition, for instance, as is used with fingerprints and eye prints .

[0043] The DVMS outside module 10 is shown in Fig. 2. As is readily seen in the figure, the DVMS outside module is capable of being portable, much like a cell phone. However, there are some important distinctions, the most notable being that it communicates by short-range RF using the Microsoft Windows® Mobile using 802.11b standard platform. The DVMS outside module 10 can be securely mounted and quickly connected to an electrical source. ~~It is small, not much larger than a credit card, and is readily adaptable for use in external residential or commercial locations.~~ ~~It~~ The DVMS outside module is preferably a wireless pocket PC ~~is~~ comprised of: a camera 22, at least one speaker 12, a means for proximity ~~sensor~~ sensing 26, a microphone 20, a LCD display 16, a locking mechanism 28 for securing the pocket PC, a quick connect electrical receptacle 24, a ~~RF~~ DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum) combined with FHSS (Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum) ~~FM~~ digital ~~an RF~~ receiver / transmitter 18, and a keypad 14, where the transmission signal strength is typically under 0.5 watts. The DVMS outside module can, optionally, have a small portable energy source, such as a battery. The DVMS outside module can be mounted in a holster (not shown). The LCD display can be used to send and receive text. Alphanumeric code can be generated by the keypad. In the illustrated embodiment, the ~~The~~ camera 22 is activated by ~~the~~ proximity sensor 26, which in ~~turns~~ turn relays a series of video snapshots ~~an image,~~ or streaming video~~,~~ to the PC 80 ~~where it is in the database with a time~~. The video is recorded / stored in the PC, and then broadcast to a DVMS inside module, and when appropriate to a remote peripheral device. The locking mechanism 28 enables the DVMS outside module ~~hardware unit~~ to be installed securely wherever holstered, or to be moved to some other remote location, if desired. Preferably, the DVMS outside module is connected to an electrical supply having a battery backup.

[0044] Referring to Fig. 3, the DVMS inside module ~~Transceiver~~ 60 is portable and has many of the same components as the DVMS outside module 10. Like the DVMS outside module, it communicates by short-range RF using the 802.11b standard platform. Unlike the DVMS outside module, the DVMS inside module ~~it~~ does not have ~~the necessary~~ weather resistance, as it is used in the interior. It is a pocket PC comprised of: at least one speaker 62, a microphone 50, a LCD display 66, a quick connect electrical receptacle 65 for charging, a ~~RF FM~~ DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum) combined with FHSS (Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum) digital receiver / transmitter 68, and a keypad 64. The LCD display 66 can be used to send and receive text. Alphanumeric code can be generated by the keypad 66. In a preferred embodiment the DVMS inside module ~~transceiver~~ has a mute switch 61, which cuts off the microphone 63, thus assuring the user that if he wishes he can just monitor a video without ever accidentally sending an audible signal.

[0045] Referring to Fig. 4, which is a block diagram of the method wherein the audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system is employed as a door answering and messaging system. The block diagram takes the reader through a typical scenario when the invention is deployed at a residence.

Please amend paragraphs [0048] - [0049] to read as follows:

[0048] From the foregoing, it is readily apparent that we have invented an improved audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system that can be deployed as a door answering system.

[0049] The system provides the options of allowing the visitor to converse with the occupant, leaving a message, or calling a remote peripheral device for communication with the occupant when he is either not present or unavailable. The visit is recorded and time stamped for sorting or viewing either in real time or at a later date. The system achieves these features, while still presenting a system that is intuitive and easy to use. The system further enables an electronically actuated lock to be accessed by entering an access code, either with the DVMS outside module or remotely. A unique feature of the system is that when electrical power is lost, the system can be configured to call the administrator, or his designated representative, alerting him of the problem. The audio-video ~~greeting~~ communication and ~~communicating~~ answering system has esoteric features not found in the prior art, such as the flexibility to change a greeting, or prompt to reflect holidays, and special occasions. The system can incorporate music or sounds not found with answering systems, or even play images in the case where the DVMS outside module has an LCD display. Finally, the system allows the occupants to achieve a higher level of security and anonymity, if so desired.